

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Hungary

REPORT

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

1. During 1951 streptomycin, in spite of Hungarian statements to the contrary, was then not yet manufactured in Hungary. All streptomycin had been imported from Western countries. 25X1
2. In January 1952, Dr. Béla Oberrecht began experimenting with the manufacture of streptomycin in the laboratories of the Medical Research Institute. During the year he visited the Soviet Union from where he brought back to his enlarged laboratories—as a gift of the USSR—an offshoot of streptomycin mushroom. With this he began his mushroom bed.
3. By December 1952, he declared that with six large fermenting devices at his laboratories and at the Chinoin pharmaceutical plant he could produce 650 kilos per year. He also declared that a new unit at the Chinoin works would allow him to increase his annual production.
4. In March 1953 Oberrecht received the Kossuth prize for his work on streptomycin. By June 1953, the Chinoin works had begun small-scale production of streptomycin and the new unit was being built. Output by the end of 1953 had reached between 625 and 650 kilos. During 1954 production remained on the same scale. Clinics, hospitals, and individual doctors were asked to report on the quality of the product.
5. In November 1954 a meeting was called by the Ministry of Health at which doctors reported on the excellent quality of the medicament. All doctors present had experience with the Western product, too. Only 12% of the doctors present had some complaints to make.
6. As an outcome of this meeting the Ministry allocated more money for the building of a larger unit for manufacturing streptomycin. It was thought that the new Chinoin special unit would begin its increased output by the beginning of the year, but machines and fermenting devices were not ready.
7. In April 1955, the unit began production, but Dr. Oberrecht found so many faults in its construction that it cannot be expected that full capacity will be reached before August 1955.
8. Hungarian publicity, however, maintains that the new plant is already working at full capacity.

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